

**Amendment to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-11. (withdrawn)

12. (original) A storage system comprising:

a first plurality of disk drives; and

a disk controller connected to a host processor and said first plurality of disk drives, said disk controller controlling data write from said host processor to said first plurality of disk drives, and data transfer from said first plurality of disk drives to said host processor;

wherein said disk controller is arranged to be connected to another disk controller, and to obtain information on a support function of the another disk controller.

13. (original) A storage system according to claim 12, wherein said disk controller includes means for obtaining the information on the support function of the another disk controller from the another disk controller.

14. (original) A storage system according to claim 13, wherein said disk controller establishes a pair of disk drives, said pair including one of said first plurality of disk drives and one of a second plurality of disk drives which are controlled by the another disk controller; and

wherein said obtaining means obtains the information on the support function of the another disk controller from the another disk controller when said pair of disk drives is established.

15. (original) A storage system according to claim 12, wherein said disk controller includes a management table for storing the information on the support function of the another disk controller.

16. (original) A storage system according to claim 15, wherein said disk controller further includes means for obtaining the information on the support function of the another disk controller from the another disk controller.

17. (original) A storage system according to claim 16, wherein said disk controller establishes a pair of disk drives, said pair including one of said first plurality of disk drives and one of a second plurality of disk drives which are controlled by the another disk controller; and

wherein said obtaining means obtains the information on the support function of the another disk controller from the another disk controller when said pair of disk drives is established.

18. (original) A storage system according to claim 16, wherein said disk controller stores the information on the support function of the another disk controller, which information is obtained from the another disk controller by said obtaining means, in said management table.

19. (original) A storage system according to claim 12, wherein said disk controller controls issuance, to the another disk controller, of information that is different according to the support function of the another disk controller.

20. (original) A storage system according to claim 19, wherein said disk controller performs a control according to a first support function of the another disk controller if the another disk controller has the first support function.

21. (original) A storage system according to claim 19, wherein said disk controller controls issuance, to the another disk controller, of information that does not correspond to a second support function, if the another disk controller does not have the second support function.

22. (original) A storage system according to claim 19, wherein said disk controller includes a function determining section for judging the support function of the another disk controller.

23. (original) A storage system according to claim 22, wherein said disk controller includes a management table for storing the information on the support function of the another disk controller.

24. (original) A storage system according to claim 23, wherein said disk controller further includes means for obtaining the information on the support function of the another disk controller from the another disk controller.

25. (original) A storage system according to claim 24, wherein said disk controller establishes a pair of disk drives, said pair including one of said first plurality of disk drives and one of a second plurality of disk drives which are controlled by the another disk controller; and

wherein said obtaining means obtains the information on the support function of the another disk controller from the another disk controller when said pair of disk drives is established.

26. (original) A storage system according to claim 24, wherein said disk controller stores the information on the support function of the another disk controller, which information is obtained from the another disk controller by said obtaining means, in said management table.

27. (original) A storage system according to claim 26, wherein said function determining section judges the support function of the another disk controller in accordance with the information on the support function of the another disk controller in said management table.

28. (original) A storage system according to claim 19, wherein said disk controller does not issue a specified command to the another disk controller, if said disk controller judges from the information on the support function of the another disk controller that the another disk controller does not accept the specified command.

29. (cancel)

30. (currently amended) A storage system comprising:

a first plurality of disk drives; and

a disk controller connected to a host processor and said first plurality of disk drives, said disk controller controlling data transfer from said first plurality of disk drives to said host processor;

wherein said disk controller is connected to another storage system, and said disk controller transfers a read command, received from the host processor, to the another storage system, in the case where object data for the read command exists in the another storage system.

~~A storage system according to claim 20,~~ wherein said disk controller controls data write from said host processor to said first plurality of disk drives; drives, and

wherein said disk controller ~~includes means for confirming~~ confirms that object data for the read command or a write command received from the host processor exists in the another storage system, and ~~means for transferring~~ transfers the read command or the write command ~~from the disk controller to~~ the another storage system.

31. (canceled)